The Latter-Day Saints'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH UNTO THE CHURCHES.—*Rev.* ii. 7.

No. 7. APRIL 1, 1848. Vol. X.

EULOGIES ON THE DEATH OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,

BY SENATORS DAVIS AND BENTON.

In the Senate the Hon. John Davis, of Massachusetts, announced the death of Mr. Adams in the following words:—

Mr. President—By the recent affliction of my colleague, a painful duty devolves upon me. The message just delivered from the House, proves that the hand of God has been again among us. A great and good man has gone from our midst. If, in speaking of John Quincy Adams, I can give utterance to the language of my own heart, I am confident I shall meet with a response from the Senate.

He was born in the then Province of Massachusetts, while she was girding herself for the great revolutionary struggle which was then before her. His parentage is too well known to need even an allusion; yet I may be pardoned if I say that his father seemed born to aid in the establishment of our free Government, and his mother was a suitable companion and co-labourer of such a patriot. The cradle-hymns of the child were the songs of liberty. The power and competence of man for self government were the topics which he most frequently heard discussed by the wise men of the day; and the inspiration thus caught gave form and pressure to his after life. Thus early imbued with the love of free institutions, educated by his father for the service of his country, and early led by Washington to its altar, he has stood before the world as one of its eminent statesmen. He has occupied, in turn, almost every place of honor which the country could give him, and for more than half a century has been thus identified with its history. Under any circumstances, I should feel myself unequal to the task of rendering justice to his memory, but, with the debilitating effect of bad health still upon me, I can only with extreme brevity touch upon some of the most prominent features of his life.

While yet a young man, he was in May 1794 appointed Minister Resident to the States General of the United Netherlands. In May 1796, two years after, he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary at Lisbon, in Portugal. These honours were conferred on him by George Washington, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

In May, 1797, he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of Prussia. In March, 1798, and probably while at Berlin, he was appointed a Commissioner with full powers to negotiate a treaty of amity and commerce with Sweden.

After his return to the United States he was elected by the Legislature of Massachusetts a Senator, and discharged the duties of that station in this Chamber from the 4th of March, 1803, until June 1808, when differing from his colleague and from the State upon a great political question, he resigned his seat. In June 1809, he was nominated and appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. Petersburg.

While at that Court, in February, 1811, he was appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge Cushing, but never took his seat upon the Bench.

In May, 1813, he, with Messrs. Gallatin and Bayard, was nominated Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to negotiate a treaty of peace with Great Britain, under the mediation of Russia, and a treaty of commerce with Russia. From causes which it is unnecessary to notice, nothing was accomplished under this appointment. But afterwards, in January, 1814, he, with Messrs. Gallatin, Bayard, Clay, and Russel, were appointed Ministers Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary to negotiate a treaty of peace and a treaty of commerce with Great Britain. This mission succeeded in effecting a pacification, and the name of Mr. Adams is subscribed to the treaty of Ghent.

After this eventful crisis in our public affairs he was, in February, 1815, selected by Mr. Madison to represent the country and protect its interests at the Court of St. James, and he remained there as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary until Mr. Monroe became President of the United States.

On the 5th March, 1817, at the commencement of the new Administration, he was appointed Secretary of State, and continued in the office while James Monroe was at the head of the Administration.

In 1825 he was elected his successor, and discharged the duties of President for one term, ending on the 3rd of March, 1829.

Here followed a brief period of repose from public service, and Mr. Adams retired to the family mansion at Quincy, but was elected a member of the House of Representatives from the district in which he lived at the next election, which occurred after his return to it, and took his seat in December, 1831; he retained it by successive elections to the day of his death.

I have not ventured on this occasion beyond a bare enumeration of the high places of trust and confidence which have been conferred upon the deceased. The service covers a period of more than half a century, and what language can I employ which will pourtray more forcibly the great merits of the deceased, the confidence reposed in him by the public, or the ability with which he discharged the duties devolved upon him, than by this simple narration of recorded facts? An ambitious man could not desire a more emphatic eulogy.

Mr. Adams, however, was not merely a statesman, but a ripe, accomplished scholar, who, during a life of remarkably well-directed industry, made those great acquirements which adorned his character, and gave to it the manly strength of wisdom and intelligence.

As a statesman and patriot, he will rank among the illustrious men of an age prolific in great names, and greatly distinguished for its progress in civilization. The productions of his pen are proofs of a vigorous mind, imbued with a profound knowledge of what it investigates, and of a memory which was singularly retentive and capacious.

But his character is not made up of those conspicuous qualities alone. He will be remembered for the virtues of private life—for his elevated moral example—for his integrity—for his devotion to his duties as a Christian, as a neighbour, and as the head of a family. In all these relations few persons have set a more steadfast or brighter example, and few have descended to the grave where the broken ties of social and domestic affection have been more sincerely lamented. Great as may be the loss to the public of one so gifted and wise, it is by the family that his death will be most deeply felt. His aged and beloved partner, who has so long shared the honors of his career, and to whom all who know her are bound by the ties of friendship, will believe that we share her grief, mourn her bereavement, and sympathize with her in her affliction.

It is believed to have been the earnest wish of his heart to die like Chatham in the midst of his labors. It was a sublime thought, that where he had toiled in the House of the nation in hours of the day, devoted to its service, the stroke of death should reach him, and there sever the ties of love and patriotism which bound him to earth. He fell in his seat, attacked by paralysis, of which he had before been a victim. To describe the scene which ensued would be impossible. It was more than the spontaneous gush of feeling which all such events call forth, so much to

the honour of our nature. It was the expression of reverence for his moral worth; of admiration for his great intellectual endowments, and of veneration for his age and public services. All gathered round the sufferer, and the strong sympathy and deep feeling which manifested itself, showed that the business of the House (which was instantly adjourned) was forgotten amid the distressing anxieties of the moment. He was soon removed to the apartment of the Speaker, where he remained surrounded by afflicted friends till the weary clay resigned its immortal spirit. "This is the end of earth!" Brief but emphatic words. They were among the last uttered by the dying Christian.

Thus has closed the life of one whose purity, patriotism, talents, and learning have seldom been seriously questioned. To say that he had faults would only be declaring that he was human. Let him who is exempt from error venture to point them out. In this long career of public life it would be strange if this venerable man had not met with many who have differed from him in sentiment, or who have condemned his acts. If there be such, let the mantle of oblivion be thrown over each unkind thought. Let not the grave of the old man eloquent be desecrated by unfriendly remembrances, but let us yield our homage to his many virtues, and let it be our prayer, that we may so perform our duties here, that if summoned in a like sudden and appalling manner, we may not be found unprepared or unable to utter his words. "I am composed."

Mr. President, with this imperfect sketch of the character and services of a great man, I leave the subject in the hands of the Senate by moving the resolutions which I send to the Chair.—*New York Daily Tribune.*

At the usual hour of meeting of the two Houses of Congress, on the 25th Feb., a full attendance of members and crowded audiences attested the deep interest of the occasion, which called the two Houses to offer public testimonials of their profound respect for the memory of the Hon. John Quincy Adams, who breathed his last on the preceding evening, and whose mortal remains yet lay within the walls of the capitol.

In the Senate, after Mr. Davis's eulogy on the death of Mr. Adams, Mr. Benton of Missouri, addressed the Senate as follows:—

Mr. President.—The voice of his native state has been heard, through one of the Senators of Massachusetts, announcing the death of her aged and most distinguished son. The voice of the other Senator from Massachusetts is not heard, nor is his presence seen. A domestic calamity, known to us all, and felt by us all, confines him to the chamber of private grief, while the Senate is occupied with the public manifestations of a respect and sorrow which a national loss inspires. In the absence of that Senator, and as the member of this body longest here, it is not unfitting or unbecoming in me to second the motion which has been made for extending the last honors of the Senate to him who, forty-five years ago, was a member of this body, who, at the time of his death, was among the oldest members of the House of Representatives, and who, putting the years of his service together, was the oldest of all the members of the American Government.

The eulogium of Mr. Adams is made in the facts of his life, which the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Davis,) has so strikingly stated that, from early manhood to octogenarian age, he has been constantly and most honorably employed in the public service. For a period of more than fifty years, from the time of his first appointment as minister abroad under Washington, to his last election to the House of Representatives by the people of his native district, he has been constantly retained in the public service, and that, not by the favor of a sovereign, or by hereditary title, but by the elections and appointments of a Republican Government. This fact makes the eulogy of the illustrious deceased. For what, except a union of all the qualities which command the esteem and confidence of man, could have insured a public service so long, by appointments free and popular, and from sources so various and exalted? Minister many times abroad; member of this body; member of the House of Representatives; Cabinet minister; President of the United States; such has been the galaxy of his splendid appointments. And what but moral excellence the most perfect; intellectual ability the most eminent; fidelity the most unwavering; service the most useful, would have commanded such a

succession of appointments so exalted, and from sources so various and so eminent? Nothing less could have commanded such a series of appointments; and accordingly we see the union of all these great qualities in him who has received them.

In this long career of public service, Mr. Adams was distinguished not only by faithful attention to all the great duties of his stations, but to all their less and minor duties. He was not the Salaminian galley, to be launched only on extraordinary occasions, but he was the ready vessel, always launched when the duties of his station required it, be the occasion great or small. As president, as cabinet minister, as minister abroad, he examined all questions that came before him, and examined all, in all their parts, in all the minutiæ of their detail, as well as in all the vastness of their comprehension. As Senator, and as a member of the House of Representatives, the obscure committee-room was as much the witness of his laborious application to the drudgery of legislation as the halls of the two Houses were to the ever-ready speech, replete with knowledge, which instructed all hearers, enlightened all subjects, and gave dignity and ornament to debate.

In the observance of all the proprieties of life, Mr. Adams was a most noble and impressive example. He cultivated the minor as well as the greater virtues. Wherever his presence could give aid and countenance to what was useful and honorable to man, there he was. In the exercises of the school and of the college —in the meritorious meetings of the agricultural, mechanical, and commercial societies—in attendance upon Divine worship—he gave the punctual attendance rarely seen but in those who are free from the weight of public cares.

Punctual to every duty, death found him at the post of duty, and where else could it have found him, at any stage of his career, for the fifty years of his illustrious public life? From the time of his first appointment by Washington to his last election by the people of his native town, where could death have found him but at the post of duty? At that post, in the fulness of age, in the ripeness of renown, crowned with honors, surrounded by his family, his friends, and admirers, and in the very presence of the national representation, he has been gathered to his fathers, leaving behind him the memory of public services which are the history of his country for half a century, and the example of a life, public and private, which should be the study and the model of the generations of his countrymen.

When Mr. B. concluded, the resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the Senate adjourned to Saturday.—*New York Daily Tribune.*

RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY WITH MEXICO.

Washington, Feb. 24, 1848.

Evidences of opposition to the Treaty accumulate. It is whispered that the motion to print the conditions thereof in executive session, passed but by a meager majority of two, a kind of Phyrrus victory. The Administration Senators either stood off or were hostile. The Cabinet has had the Treaty under consideration. It has been before suggested, on good grounds withal, that Buchanan and Walker oppose it—the others favor it, under the wish to get out of the scrape as soon as possible. Still the inducement of President and Cabinet to make peace, is to do away with the idea that they wish to absorb Mexico.

These facts "stick out." Trist was sent to Mexico by Mr. Polk without the least *discretionary* authority in regard to terms. The whole conditions were elaborated and prescribed here. The sole discretion he was authorized to use, was filling up blanks in respect to money to be paid for territory. Sliddell had been sent as full Minister, and had been repudiated, under circumstances that mortified while they defeated the Administration. To avoid a repetition of such disagreeable circumstances, they sent Mr. Trist rather in the character of bearer of dispatches — enjoining upon Gen. Scott the duty of informing the Mexican Government that there was an accredited agent of our Government present, ready to receive any propositions they had to make. After the failure of Mr. Trist's limited delegation, his authority to treat failed; and whatever transpired beyond, was extra judical. He

was notified immediately on advice by the Administration of his failure in negotiating, to return.

He replied in terms unacceptable to the State department; and on his non-return by the next departing train from Mexico, in obedience to the orders of the Department; he received at the earliest opportunity, a peremptory order to come back without delay to the United States. To this order he replied in a letter of 50 pages, in a tone and language deemed both by Mr. Polk and Mr. Buchanan improper and offensive. Upon the receipt of such communication, orders were immediately transmitted to Gen. Butler—supposed Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Mexico—to arrest and send him home.

In the intermediate time between his previous communication and the present transmitting the Treaty, it will be seen that the Administration had determined to pursue toward him extreme measures. A negotiator coming home under arrest may not be a novel event; but it will be hardly fair toward Mr. Trist to adopt, and punish, his proceedings.

Still Mr. Buchanan is angry, and much should be conceded to his anger. He is a bachelor, petulent, jealous, and avaricious of praise. No woman was ever more disposed to resent *spretæque injuria formæ* than he—and a personal offence to himself, Mr. Trist will find hardly counterbalanced by even indubitable services to the country.

Mr. Polk, however, wishes peace—and peace he would be happy to take secured on these conditions.

But among others, the Texan Senators are found in opposition. By the terms of the Treaty (as it is understood out of doors) the Spanish grants to lands in Texas are to be made valid. This article would render insecure, and perhaps worthless, the tenures of a large part, if not greater part of Texas. Of course the Senators from that State cannot be faithless to the interests of their contrymen, and adopt the Treaty with such a provision.

Therefore, doubt hangs like a shadow or a cloud over the Treaty.—*New York Daily Tribune.*

LATER NEWS.

New York, Feb. 26, 1848.

We are to have peace at last, no one seems to doubt. Thank Heaven for that! Whether we are to pay Mexico fifteen millions *beside* the amount of our just claims upon her for spoilations upon our citizens, or *including* that amount,—whether we are to lend her an army of twelve thousand men until the peace party shall have fully established and consolidated its ascendency, or only until we can fairly withdraw from the country—seem yet in doubt, and we see no use in crowding our columns with the shrewd guesses of this paper or of that on the subject, since a few days must dispel all uncertainty. It is agreed on all hands that the future boundary of the two nations is to be the Rio Grande, from its mouth to about the 32d degree of north latitude, thence due west to the Pacific, giving us an accession of ten degrees, or nearly 700 English miles in width across the whole north end of Mexico, with all that she possessed on this side of the Rio Grande, including the cities or important villages of Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Taos, &c., and a Mexican population of perhaps 50,000 on this side of the Rio Grande, and as many on the other. The territory we thus acquire can hardly be less than 2,000,000 square miles in all, equal to a district 2,000 miles long and 1,000 broad; but of this a very large proportion is an inhospitable and irreclaimable desert of rock and arid sand, destitute in the main of wood, of soil, and even of water. There is a strip immediately on the bank of the lower Rio Grande of decidedly fertile soil, but subject to inundations, fevers, &c. New Mexico (higher up) is in good part composed of mountains and steril wastes, but it embosoms some decidedly rich mines of copper and silver. Westward of this stretches a thousand miles of the most forlorn desert on the face of the earth—trackless, treeless, in good part waterless, and utterly uninhabitable. Still west of this lies Upper California, composed in the main of steep rugged mountains, and rich narrow valleys, but sorely diminished in value and productiveness by the habitual scarcity of rain, except in winter. There are considerable tracts

wherein this scarcity is not experienced, and which are admirably adapted to grazing and the cheap rearing of horses, neat cattle and sheep. The horses of California are hardy, swift, and fine; the cattle fair; the sheep breed very fast, and are subsisted with little labor or cost, but those of fine wool degenerate. Of grain, large crops are produced in particular localities, but the scarcity and wretchedness of agricultural implements, the indolence of the people, and the general necessity of irrigation, are sad drawbacks on the progress and power of industry. Yet the native Indians, to some extent, have been known to labor steadily for a bare subsistence, and, as the climate is not very hot, we presume Yankee energy will vindicate itself there as elsewhere.—*New York Daily Tribune.*

CONFERENCE MINUTES.

LIVERPOOL.

This Conference, held December 26, 1847, commenced in the usual manner. After singing and prayer it was proposed that Elder Simeon Carter preside, and that J. S. Cantwell act as clerk; both propositions being carried, the President stood up and made some excellent remarks on the nature of the duties of the Saints, which we sincerely hope will be faithfully adhered to. As the press of matter for the STAR will not admit of any lengthy communication, of course on that account it cannot be inserted.

The representations of the various branches in this Conference were then called for:—

BRANCH.	REPRESENTED BY	MEM.	H. P.	ELD.	PRS.	TEA.	DEA.	BAP.	SCAT.
Liverpool	J. Marsden	444	1	28	29	10	5	30	7
North Wales	L. D. Butler	103	0	7	8	4	2	18	0
Prescott, &c.	W. Frodsham	32	0	2	3	1	2	3	2
Newton	W. Lovatt	40	0	3	3	1	1	7	1
Warrington	J. Evans	17	0	2	1	1	1	2	1
Birkenhead	J. Parry	41	0	7	1	2	0	1	0
	Total	677	1	49	45	19	11	61	11

The President then called on the branch to show by vote whether they still would sustain Elder James Marsden as president of the branch. Unanimously agreed to.

He then called for the nomination of such of the brethren as they thought fit to be ordained to office.

The following were then nominated:—Brother John Jones (priest) to be ordained an elder; Brothers David Haines, George Evans, Thomas Ord, Eli Harrison, and Charles Smith, of the Liverpool branch, to be ordained priests.

It was then proposed that Henry Stocks (priest) be ordained an elder, Francis Jackson (deacon) and Henry Pilling, be ordained priests, and William Hall be ordained a deacon for the Newton branch.

The President then made a few remarks relative to the teachings of persons who made statements at times, that were not in accordance with the teachings of the first presidency. He alluded to remarks made on a previous occasion by an Elder relative to the gathering, who stated that this year the deliverance of the Saints would be consummated. He (the president) did not know of any such teaching; as the honest in heart were not yet gathered out of this land, there was a great work yet for the Saints to do, and the Lord would gather them in his own due time. He exhorted the Saints to be diligent and faithful and heed the counsel of those lawfully placed over them to teach and instruct in all things necessary. After a few more remarks the meeting was adjourned until half-past two.

The afternoon meeting commenced as usual. During the administration of the Sacrament, the President called on Elders Littlefield and Butler to occupy a short time in addressing the Saints. Elder Butler then stood up and said he was happy to have an opportunity of addressing the Saints at that time; he was considering upon the pleasant and joyous time he spent the last evening at the tea party, and

when he went home at night he was troubled in mind about the way so many (especially the poor) would be gathered, he asked the Lord in prayer for an answer, and received that night a comforting dream relative to the emigration of the Saints from this land.

Elder Littlefield then stood up and spoke at some length on the subject of the dream, and of other matters in connexion with principles of eternal truth.

The President then called on the Saints to lift up their hearts with him in a petition to the Lord on behalf of Brother and Sister Cousins, who were dangerously ill and nigh unto death; after which he called on those who had been nominated to come forward for ordination. They were then ordained (with the exception of Brother Jones, who was not present,) under the hands of Elders Carter and Littlefield.

The ordinance of confirmation, &c., was attended to by Elders Carter and Littlefield.

It was then moved and seconded that this Conference adjourn until the last Sunday in March, which being carried, the Conference closed in the usual manner.

SIMEON CARTER, President.
J. S. CANTWELL, Clerk.

The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

APRIL 1, 1848.

WE have copied two speeches of Senators Benton and Davis upon the occasion of the death of ex-President John Quincy Adams. Mr. Adams was a rare man, possessed of many noble virtues. He was one, doubtless, of the honourable men of the earth, spoken of in the Book of Covenants, who through the "craft of men received not the gospel in the flesh, (perhaps he never heard it,) but who will receive it hereafter." He seemed to serve mankind at large, and his country especially, through a long life with the strictest fidelity. He adhered to his *own* standard of usefulness and excellence with great integrity, and if he had been made fully acquainted with the gospel standard his noble and honourable mind would doubtless have yielded an implicit obedience to it. We love to see merit acknowledged and rewarded to all men, without regard to political or religious creeds and opinions. True patriots and honourable statesmen and rulers, that hold the scales of justice with an equitable hand, we are taught by the revelations of impartial heaven, will receive the gospel hereafter, and enter into exalted glory. But the "first-born" on earth that receive the gospel in the flesh, will by no means lose their birthright, except for transgression. Let those therefore who know the law of God and standard of celestial claims, keep them, and secure the inheritance of the first-born *in the flesh*, so that no man get their crown.

THE revolution of France, and the bloody scenes in the south of Europe, have recently been followed with numerous alarming disturbances in England, Scotland, and Ireland. Most of the largest towns have been subject to riotous, and in some instances, bloody outrages. These things should warn the Saints to secure a safe hiding-place in the kingdom of God and land of Zion, with all readiness and fixedness of purpose.

In April present, the citizens of France, including all males over twenty-one years of age, will be permitted to enjoy the privilege of elective franchise, and vote for delegates to the National Convention, which is to convene for the purpose of

organising a Republican form of government. This will doubtless constitute a critical period in the political affairs of the French nation.

The crowned heads of Europe can hardly be expected to remain passive and indifferent spectators to the creation of a Republic in their midst, where the antipodes of monarchial systems are exhibited in successful rivalry. If the aristocracy of Europe should succeed in scattering firebrands of dissention among the French nation, in this perilous ordeal of their history, the combustible elements in other nations might be enkindled, by way of retaliation, and a general blaze on the Continent of Europe burst forth, which shall be extinguished only in a massive crash of many thrones.

However, though thrones may be cast down, and many kingdoms be overturned, the end will not come till the gospel is first preached to all nations. Great convulsive shocks must take place before the gospel can be tolerated universally. The days of tribulation must come, and "judgment and justice" must be administered. We rejoice that the days of tribulation will be shortened, lest the righteous should be swallowed up with the wicked, and no flesh should survive to replenish the earth.

A TREATY between the United States and Mexico has been formed, and is likely to be ratified, which gives the United States Upper California and New Mexico, and all territory north of the parallel of 32 degrees lying between the Rio Grande and the Pacific, and all east of the Rio Grande.

WE wish STAR and BOOK agents to remember a previous notice requesting quarterly reports of the number of STARS on hand unsold. The first quarter of 1848 will terminate on the 1st of April. By some means our book account shows a considerable amount of *books* in the hands of agents, for which we have not received pay. Perhaps this is partly our fault, being more indulgent than our worthy predecessor recommended. Several hundred pounds are now due to the office, and corresponding claims against it by those who must have their pay. As the Conferences have generally espoused the responsibility of their agents, it will be well for them to have a quarterly report of the financial condition of the STAR-agents. If the agents will make it a rule to balance their accounts quarterly, it will be gain to all concerned.

THE ship "Sailor Prince" embarked for New Orleans on the 9th ult., with a company of about eighty Saints on board, conducted by Elder Moses Martin and Uriah Hulme.

The "Carnatic," which sailed on the 21st February, has been spoken at sea since its departure: Saints all well.

LETTER TO MR. O. SPENCER.

DEAR SIR,—It is with the best and most loving feeling I at this time write, and hope your love is not incompatible to mine, nor this short note incommodious to you, for it is my desire that such a man of God should let his mind be communicative to me; for though I have forfeited the legal right to such friendship, yet in charity I make my request, and hope you will favour me with an answer on the receipt of the small favour here sent, from one who has disgraced himself by leaving the true fountain of light and truth, to wallow like the sow that was washed. O that I could tell all the world what it is to leave the Church of God, and again fall into the hands of the destroyer! Did they but know the miseries through which

I have gone—the awful dreams—the sleepless hours at night—the miserable days—how I have had recourse to intoxicating drinks, and tried to persuade myself that there was no hereafter; but all in vain. I now am left with nothing else to say, but that Scripture is true, which, in speaking of such as myself, says, "the evil spirit that left shall return, bringing others with him." Were I to give a detail of my crimes, it would chill the blood of the hardest heart, therefore I forbear, but I earnestly hope that the grace of God will keep all from falling as I have done.

Believe me an unhappy apostate and miserable sinner,

* * * *

P.S. If I had space and time I would have said more on this subject, feeling its weight.

REPLY TO MR. * * * *

Liverpool, March 9th, 1848.

Dear Sir,—I am happy to acknowledge the receipt of your interesting letter, and also the very beautiful token of friendship which accompanied the same.

It is a true sentiment that great men may err; a higher finish with such is, that their greatness is enhanced by acknowledging their errors. Whatever devious paths you may have pursued, there is one evidence that the spirit of God still lingers beseechingly around your heart, in that you now see the truth as it is in Jesus, and you desire the good will and affection of the Saints. Cherish then, dear sir, this light, and secure by all righteous means the friendship, faith, and prayers of the just, and it shall not only be as oil and precious ointment to your wounded heart, but it shall induct you into the kingdom of God again, and take away the remembrance of past follies, and give you a name among the just, and an inheritance that shall never fade. If you are now resolute to keep the commands of God you will soon put to silence your accusers, and be able to administer to others whose feet have stuck fast in the miry clay. The school of chastisement, though costly, imparts a permament remembrance of its teachings. You are not alone in this school. Many have taken more lessons and attained to more degrees than yourself, while some bewailed in deeper abasement in proportion to their greater sin; others however have not had either the manhood or faint relic of Godliness sufficient to retrace their steps in the thorny path of penitence, but have madly held on to the last rotten plank of apostacy till engulfed in an awful abyss. But you, sir, can emerge from sickening scenes, which you now humbly acknowledge, into the sunshine of forgiveness, and, like a crimsoned Paul, forget disagreeable things that are behind, and press forward to the mark of a rich prize which is laid up for all who endure to the end. Your desire to caution all others not to drink of the bitter cup of apostacy, which you have so freely imbibed to the removal of all inward peace by night and by day, is truly good, and it shall be published as a friendly warning to the unruly and fault-finding, to beware of the first working of apostacy as leading to despair and guilt.

With sentiments of the sincerest friendship, I am truly,

ORSON SPENCER.

THE NIGHT SIDE OF NATURE.

(From Chambers' Edinburgh Journal.)

This is the somewhat poetical name of a book published for the purpose of rationalising the ancient, though of late exploded belief in prophetic dreams, spiritual appearances, and other mysterious things. What first strikes the 'candid reader,' is the amazing moral courage of the author: she, a novelist of some reputation, and a woman of the world, to come boldly out with the profession of a belief in what the intelligent public have long condemned as only fit matter for vulgar wonderment—even though she profess a philosophical object and a wish to fortify the conviction of the spirituality of our nature, and to elevate thereby our moral

life—it must be acknowledged to be no common phenomenon in literature. A second feeling, on dipping into the book, will be surprise at the rifeness of such matters in these cool, unwondering days—so contrary to the common notion that they have disappeared along with the disposition to believe in them. It appears as if, while scepticism is the general profession, a vast number of persons had yet experiences which they could not resolve into accordance with the admitted course of nature, and which they are willing to disclose in certain circumstances, but always with an injunction as to concealment of names, lest they be suspected of a secret leaning to an unfashionable belief. These Mrs. Crowe has determined to collect and arrange, with the view of endeavouring to bring them within the domain of science. 'Because, in the seventeenth century,' she remarks, 'credulity outran reason and discretion, the eighteenth century, by a natural reaction, threw itself into an opposite extreme. Whoever closely observes the signs of the times, will be aware that another change is approaching. The contemptuous scepticism of the last age is yielding to a more humble spirit of inquiry; and there is a large class of persons amongst the most enlightened of the present, who are beginning to believe that much which they have been taught to reject as fable, has been, in reality, ill-understood truth.' If such a reaction be actually in progress, it is a fact of obvious importance. Perhaps the reception of the 'Night Side of Nature' will in some degree be a test how far it is a fact.

Our author starts with a chapter of speculation on the ideas which have been entertained regarding the inner spiritual nature of man. Adopting the doctrine of there being a spiritual as well as fleshy body, she seeks to show how some faint gleams of its attributes may at times shoot up through the clay in which it has taken up its temporary abode; through this medium, she thinks, we may, under certain perhaps abnormal conditions, have communication with the spiritual world, so as to become cognisant of things above the apprehension of the bodily senses. Disease often supplies these conditions; mesmerism supplies them to some extent; so does common sleep; often, however, the communication takes place without any extraordinary conditions being observable.

Revelations by dreaming she takes up first, as being the simplest class of phenomena; and of these she presents a number of curious examples. Take as a specimen the following:—'Mr. S—— was the son of an Irish bishop, who set somewhat more value on the things of this world than became his function. He had always told his son that there was but one thing he could not forgive, and that was a bad marriage—meaning by a bad marriage, a poor one. As cautions of this sort do not always prevent young people falling in love, Mr. S—— fixed his affections on Lady O——, a fair young widow, without any fortune; and, aware that it would be useless to apply for his father's consent, he married her without asking it. They were consequently exceedingly poor; and indeed nearly all they had to live on was a small sinecure of forty pounds per annum, which Dean Swift procured for him. Whilst in this situation, Mr. S—— dreamt one night that he was in the cathedral in which he had formerly been accustomed to attend service; that he saw a stranger, habited as a bishop, occupying his father's throne; and that, on applying to the verger for an explanation, the man said that the bishop was dead, and that he had expired just as he was adding a codicil to his will in his son's favour. The impression made by the dream was so strong, that Mr. S—— felt that he should have no repose till he had obtained news from home; and as the most speedy way of doing so was to go there himself, he started on horse-back, much against the advice of his wife, who attached no importance whatever to the circumstance. He had scarcely accomplished half his journey, when he met a courier, bearing the intelligence of his father's death; and when he reached home, he found that there was a codicil attached to the will, of the greatest importance to his own future prospects; but the old gentleman had expired with the pen in his hand, just as he was about to sign it.

'In this unhappy position, reduced to hopeless indigence, the friends of the young man proposed that he should present himself at the vice-regal palace on the next levee day, in hopes that some interest might be excited in his favour; to which, with reluctance, he consented. As he was ascending the stairs, he was met by a gentleman whose dress indicated that he belonged to the church.

"Good heavens!" said he to the friend who accompanied him, "who is that?"

"That is Mr. —— of so and so."

"Then he will be bishop of L——," returned Mr. S——, "for that is the man I saw occupying my father's throne."

"Impossible!" replied the other. "He has no interest whatever, and has no more chance of being a bishop than I have."

"You will see," replied Mr. S——. "I am certain he will."

'They had made their obeisance above, and were returning, when there was a great cry without, and every body rushed to the doors and windows to inquire what had happened. The horses attached to the carriage of a young nobleman had become restive, and were endangering the life of their master, when Mr. —— rushed forward, and, at the peril of his own, seized their heads, and afforded Lord C—— time to descend before they broke through all restraint and dashed away. Through the interest of this nobleman and his friends, to whom Mr. —— had been previously quite unknown, he obtained the see of L——. These circumstances were related to me by a member of the family.'

Akin to such cases are presentiments, a class of phenomena exemplified also in the lower animals. Many of these prove to be warnings against danger, and an instruction as to the means of avoiding it. For example:—'A few years ago, Dr. W——, now residing in Glasgow, dreamt that he received a summons to attend a patient at a place some miles from where he was living; that he started on horseback; and that, as he was crossing a moor, he saw a bull making furiously at him, whose horns he only escaped by taking refuge on a spot inaccessible to the animal, where he waited a long time, till some people, observing his situation, came to his assistance and released him. Whilst at breakfast on the following morning, the summons came; and, smiling at the odd *coincidence*, he started on horseback. He was quite ignorant of the road he had to go; but by and by he arrived at the moor, which he recognised, and presently the bull appeared, coming full tilt towards him. But his dream had shown him the place of refuge, for which he instantly made; and there he spent three or four hours, besieged by the animal, till the country people set him free. Dr. W—— declares that, but for the dream, he should not have known in what direction to run for safety.' Mrs. Crowe thinks that there is no need to suppose supernatural intervention in such cases. It may be only from some cause connected with the condition of the individual that the apprehension takes place—'an accident in the sense that an illness is an accident; that is, not without a cause, but without a cause that we can penetrate.'

Mesmerism has some pretensions to throw light upon these mysteries, as will appear from the following anecdote in connexion with one ensuing upon it. Two ladies, a mother and daughter, are asleep at Cheltenham, occupying the same bed. The mother, Mrs. C——, dreamt 'that her brother-in-law, then in Ireland, had sent for her; that she entered his room, and saw him in bed, apparently dying. He requested her to kiss him; but, owing to his livid appearance, she shrank from doing so, and awoke with the horror of the scene upon her. The daughter awoke at the same moment, saying, "Oh, I have had such a frightful dream!" "Oh, so have I!" returned the mother: "I have been dreaming of my brother-in-law." "My dream was about him too," added Miss C——. "I thought I was sitting in the drawing-room, and that he came in, wearing a shroud trimmed with black ribbons, and approaching me, he said, 'My dear niece, your mother has refused to kiss me, but I am sure you will not be so unkind.'"

'As these ladies were not in habits of regular correspondence with their relative, they knew that the earliest intelligence likely to reach them, if he were actually dead, would be by means of the Irish papers; and they waited anxiously for the following Wednesday, which was the day these journals were received in Cheltenham. When that morning arrived, Miss C—— hastened at an early hour to the reading-room, and there she learnt what the dreams had led them to expect: their friend was dead, and they afterwards ascertained that his decease had taken place on that night.'

The magnetic illustration was related to the author by Mr. W. W——, a gentleman well known in the north of England. This gentleman 'had been cured by mesmerism of a very distressing malady. During part of the process of cure, after

the *rapport* had been well established, the operations were carried on whilst he was at Malvern and his magnetiser at Cheltenham, under which circumstances the existence of this extraordinary dependence was frequently exhibited in a manner that left no possibility of doubt. On one occasion, I remember, that Mr. W. W—— being in the magnetic sleep, he suddenly started from his seat, clasping his hands as if startled, and presently afterwards burst into a violent fit of laughter. As, on waking, he could give no account of these impulses, his family wrote to the magnetiser, to inquire if he had sought to excite any particular manifestations in his patient, as the sleep had been somewhat disturbed. The answer was, that no such intention had been entertained, but that the disturbances might possibly have arisen from one to which he had himself been subjected. "Whilst my mind was concentrated on you," said he, "I was suddenly so much startled by a violent knock at the door, that I actually jumped off my seat, clasping my hands with affright. I had a hearty laugh at my own folly, and am sorry if you were made uncomfortable by it."

The question will of course arise—What is this *rapport* or relation between the parties, and how is it established? Even admitting the facts, who can answer this question?

We are told, in ensuing chapters, of persons who had the power of entrancing themselves, in which state their spirits were free to roam abroad to any determinate place, and for any determinate purposes. 'One of the most remarkable cases of this kind is that recorded by Jung Stilling, of a man who, about the year 1740, resided in the neighbourhood of Philadelphia, in the United States. His habits were retired, and he spoke little: he was grave, benevolent, and pious, and nothing was known against his character, except that he had the reputation of possessing some secrets that were not altogether *lawful*. Many extraordinary stories were told of him, and amongst the rest the following:—The wife of a ship captain, whose husband was on a voyage to Europe and Africa, and from whom she had been long without tidings, overwhelmed with anxiety for his safety, was induced to address herself to this person. Having listened to her story, he begged her to excuse him for a while, when he would bring her the intelligence she required. He then passed into an inner room, and she sat herself down to wait; but his absence continuing longer than she expected, she became impatient thinking he had forgotten her; and so softly approaching the door, she peeped through some aperture, and to her surprise, beheld him lying on a sofa, as motionless as if he were dead. She of course did not think it advisable to disturb him, but waited his return, when he told her that her husband had not been able to write to her for such and such reasons, but that he was then in a coffee-house in London, and would very shortly be home again. Accordingly he arrived; and as the lady learnt from him that the causes of his unusual silence had been precisely those alleged by the man, she felt extremely desirous of ascertaining the truth of the rest of the information; and in this she was gratified; for he no sooner set his eyes on the magician, than he said he had seen him before, on a certain day, in a coffee-house in London; and that he had told him that his wife was extremely uneasy about him; and that he, the captain, had thereon mentioned how he had been prevented writing; adding, tht he was on the eve of embarking for America. He had then lost sight of the stranger amongst the throng, and knew nothing more about him.

'I have no authority for this story,' says Mrs. Crowe, 'but that of Jung Stilling: and if it stood alone, it might appear very incredible; but it is supported by so many parallel examples of information given by people in somnambulic states, that we are not entitled to reject it on the score of impossibility.'

This leads to the class of phenomena called in Scotland *wraiths*—that is, appearances of persons where bodily they were not. This, says our author, sometimes occurs at the time of death, but often at an indefinite period before it, and sometimes where no such calamity is impending. 'In some of these cases, an earnest desire seems to be the cause of the phenomenon.' Maria Goffe of Rochester, dying at a distance from home, said she could not die happy till she had seen her children. 'By and by, she fell into a state of coma, which left them uncertain whether she was dead or alive. Her eyes were open and fixed, her jaw fallen, and there was no perceptible respiration. When she revived, she told her mother, who attended

her, that she had been home and seen her children; which the other said was impossible, since she had been lying there in the bed the whole time. "Yes," replied the dying woman, "but I was there in my sleep." A widow woman, called Alexander, who had the care of these children, declared herself ready to take oath upon the sacrament, that during this period she had seen the form of Maria Goffe come out of the room where the eldest child slept, and approach the bed where she herself lay with the younger beside her. The figure had stood there nearly a quarter of an hour, as far as she could judge; and she remarked that the eyes and the mouth moved, though she heard no sound.'

There is nothing remarkable in the following wraith anecdote; but it recommends itself, because of the parties being well known in Scotland. 'Mrs. K——, the sister of Provost B—— of Aberdeen, was sitting one day with her husband, Dr. K——, in the parlour of the manse, when she suddenly said, "Oh, there's my brother come; he has just passed the window!" and, followed by her husband, she hastened to the door to meet the visitor. He was, however, not there. "He is gone round to the back door," said she; and thither they went; but neither was he there, nor had the servants seen anything of him. Dr. K—— said she must be mistaken, but she laughed at the idea; her brother had passed the window and looked in; he must have gone somewhere, and would doubtless be back directly. But he came not; and the intelligence shortly arrived from Aberdeen, that at that precise time, as nearly as they could compare circumstances, he had died quite suddenly at his own place of residence. I have heard this story from connexions of the family, and also from an eminent professor of Glasgow, who told me that he had once asked Dr. K—— whether he believed in these appearances. "I cannot choose but believe," returned Dr. K——; and then he accounted for his conviction by narrating the above particulars.'

'I have met with three instances,' says Mrs. Crowe, 'of persons who are so much the subjects of this phenomenon, that they see the wraith of most persons that die belonging to them, and frequently of those who are merely acquaintance. They see the person as if he were alive; and unless they know him positively to be elsewhere, they have no suspicion but that it is himself, in the flesh, that is before them, till the sudden disappearance of the figure brings the conviction.' We happen to know that one of these persons is an eminent man of science in Scotland. So familiar are his family with the circumstance, that one of them has been known to express apprehensions as to the early death of a distant friend, 'because —— has seen him.'

(To be continued.)

NEW MEXICO AND THE CALIFORNIAS.

Mr. Hastings, a recent traveller in Mexico and California, in describing the Bay of San Francisco, thus writes:—

"From the points forming the entrance, the sea gradually expands to some eight or ten miles in extent, from north to south, and twelve from east to west. At the extreme eastern part of the vast basin thus formed, its shores again close in abruptly, contracting so as to leave a pass of about two miles in width, which forms the entrance to a second bay of still larger dimensions. From this gorge their high rocky banks again diverge for some ten miles, when they still again contract to the narrow space of one mile, and form the passage to a third. The latter is more spacious than either before mentioned, and, formed in like manner, extends twelve miles from east to west, and fifteen from north to south, affording the safest and most commodious anchorage.

"There is ample water at all times for the entrance of ships of the largest class, and it is asserted confidently, that these three united bays would afford perfect safety, secure anchorage, and ample room for the fleets and navies of all nations."

The following description of California is extracted from a work recently published in Philadelphia, entitled "Scenes in California," &c.:—

"With such extraordinary facilities for commerce, it needs no prophetic eye to foresee the position Western California is destined to assume, before many years have passed, and, from her position and natural resources, will be enabled successfully to maintain among the foremost nations of the earth—provided, always, that some other people more enterprising and enlightened than the present inert, ignorant, stupid, and mongrel race infesting

it with their presence, take possession of the country, develope its energies, and bring to light the full beauty of its natural loveliness.

"We are now led to speak of the peculiarities of soil, landscape, scenery, climate, productions, and mineral resources of this interesting country; and in so doing, I would first draw a succinct view of the territory lying between the Rio Sacramento and Oregon.

"Here we find the most forbidding aspect, with one exception, of any in Western California. The soil is generally very dry and barren, and the face of the country broken and hilly. The streams of water (as in the eastern division) frequently sink and become lost in the sand, or force themselves into the ocean and parent streams by percolation or subterranean passages.

"In many places is presented a surface of white sun-baked clay, entirely destitute of vegetation; and in others, wide spreads of sand, alike denuded; and yet again iron-bound superfices of igneous rock.

"Now and then groves of pines or firs spread their broad branches as it were to cover the nakedness of nature; while here and there a valley of greater or less extent smiles amid the surrounding desolation.

"All the various streams are skirted with bottoms of arable soil, ofttimes not only large but very fertile, though, perhaps, unadapted to cultivation, on account of their dryness, without a resort to irrigation.

"Smith's river pursues its way, for forty or fifty miles, through a wide bottom of rich soil, most admirably suited for agricultural purposes were it not for its innate irridity; however, during the summer season, it is to a limited extent watered from nightly dews, which enable it to sustain a luxuriant vegetation.

"Not one-fourth part of the north-western portion of this section is fit for tillage. That part contiguous to the sea-coast is sandy and far less broken than those sections less interior.

"The Tlameth mountains, pursuing a west-southwest coarse from Oregon, strike the coast near lat. 41 north. This range has several lofty peaks covered with perpetual snow, and shoots its collateral eminences far into the adjacent prairies.

"There is one feasible pass through this chain a few miles inland from the coast, that serves well for the purpose of intercommunication with Oregon.

"The less elevated parts of these mountains are frequently covered with groves of small timber and openings of grass suitable for pasturage, while intermingled with them are occasional valleys and *prairillons* of diminutive space, favourable to the growth of grain and vegetables. The same may be said in reference to the California chain for its whole extent, especially in the vicinity of the prairie.

"Following the course of this latter ridge from north to south, we find upon both sides a reach of very broken and highly tumultuous landscape, some twenty or thirty miles broad.

"Near the head-waters of the Sacramento, these lands are well watered, and possess a general character for fertility, producing a variety of grass, with shrubs, and a few scattering trees. Below, however, they are more sterile, owing to the deficiency of water; but yet they afford numerous inviting spots.

"A considerable extent of country, south of the South Fork of the river above named, is arid and sterile, and has but few streams of water. It sustains, however, among its hills and in its valleys, a spare vegetation, that might be turned to a favourable account for grazing purposes. Only about one-fourth of this country is adapted to other uses than stock-raising.

"Further south from the head-waters of the Tulare and del Plumas, ranging between the coast and the high rolling lands skirting the base of the California mountains, to the boundary of the Lower Province, a section of gently undulating prairie, now and then varied with high hills and sometimes mountains, affords a rich soil, generally consisting of dark, sandy loam, between the hills and in the valleys; the highlands present a superfice of clay and gravel, fertilized by decomposed vegetable matter, well adapted to grazing, and about one-half of it susceptible of cultivation.

"Timber is rather scarce; except at intervals along the water courses and occasional groves among the hills; but along the coast dense forests are frequently found, claiming trees of an enormous size.

"But one grand defect exists in its general aridity, which renders necessary a resort to frequent irrigation in the raising of other than grain productions. In some parts, the abundance of small streams would cause this task to become comparatively an easy one; and the profuseness of dews in sections contiguous to the rivers, in some measure answers as a substitute for rain.

"The bottoms are broad and extensive, yielding not only the most extraordinary crops of clover and other grasses, but incalculable quantities of wild oats and flax, of spontaneous growth, with all the wild fruits natural to the climate.

"In returning to the Sacramento and the rivers which find their discharges in the Bay of San Francisco, we have before us the most interesting and lovely part of Upper California.

"The largest valley in the whole country is that skirting the Sacramento and lateral streams. This beautiful expanse leads inland from the Bay of San Francisco for nearly four hundred miles, almost to the base of the California mountains, and averages between sixty and sixty-five miles in width.

"The valleys of the del Plumas and American Fork are also very large, and that of the Tulare gives an area of two hundred and fifty miles long by thirty-five broad.

"These valleys are comparatively well timbered with several varieties of wood, consisting principally of white oak, live oak, ash, cotton wood, cherry, and willow, while the adjacent hills afford occasional forests of pine, cedar, fir, pinion, and spruce.

"The soil, as well as the climate, is well adapted to the cultivation of all kinds of grain and vegetables produced in the United States, and many of the varied fruits of the torrid and temperate zones can be successfully reared in one and the same latitude.

"Among the grains, grasses, and fruits indigenous to the country, are wheat, rye, oats, flax, and clover, (white and red,) with a great variety of grapes, all of which are said to grow spontaneously.

"Wild oats frequently cover immense spreads of bottom and prairie land, sometimes to an extent of several thousand acres, which resemble, in appearance, the species common to the United States. They usually grow to a height of between two and three feet, though they often reach a height of seven feet.

"The wild clover of these valleys is much like the common red, and, in some places, is afforded in great abundance. It attains a usual height of two feet and a half, though it often measures twice that height—standing as thick as it can well grow.

"Forty bushels per acre is said to be the average wheat crop, but sixty and even one hundred bushels have been grown upon a little spot of ground. This grain generally reaches its maturity in three or four months from the time of sowing.

"Corn yields well, and affords an average of from fifty to sixty bushels per acre, without farther attention from the time of planting till picking. Potatoes, onions, beets, carrots, &c., may be produced in any quantity, with very little trouble. Tobacco has also been raised by some of the inhabitants, with most flattering success.

"Perhaps no country in the world is possessed of a richer or more fruitful soil, or one capable of yielding a greater variety of productions, than the valleys of the Sacramento and its tributaries.

"The articles previously noticed are more or less common to the bottoms and valleys of other sections. Grapes abound in the vicinity of most of the creeks, which afford generous wines and delicious raisins in immense quantities.

"The climate is so mild that fires are needed at no season of the year for other than cooking purposes. By aid of irrigation, many kinds of vegetables are fresh-grown at any time, while two crops of some species of grain may be produced annually.

"Flowers are not unfrequently in full bloom in mid winter, and all nature bears a like smiling aspect. In this, however, we of course refer only to the low lands and valleys.

"The traveller, at any season of the year, may visit at his option the frosts and snows of eternal winter, or feast his eyes upon the verdure and beauty or perennial spring, or glut his taste amid the luxuriant abundance and rich maturity of unending summer, or indulge his changeful fancy in the enjoyment of a magnificent variety of scenery as well as of climate, soil, and productions.

"The only rains incident to this country fall during the months of December, January, February, and March, which constitute the winter; at other times rain is very rarely known to fall. Perhaps, for one-third of the four months before named, the clouds pour down their torrents without intermission; the remaining two-thirds afford clear and delightful weather.

"During the wet season, the ground, in many parts, becomes so thoroughly saturated with moisture, particularly in the valley of the Sacramento, that, by the aid of copious dews, to which the country is subject, crops may be raised without the trouble of irrigation; though its general aridity constitutes the greatest objection to California.

"Of its geological and mineralogical character, little is yet known. The prevailing rock is said to be sandstone, mica slate, granite, trap, basalt, puddingstone, and limestone, with occasional beds of gypsum. Among its minerals, as commonly reported, are found gold, silver, iron, coal, and a variety of salts. The mineral resources of the country have not been, as yet, fully investigated to any great extent, but the mountains in different parts are supposed to be rich in hidden stores.

"To speak of Western California, as a whole, it may be pronounced hilly, if not mountainous, and about two-thirds of it is probably fit for agricultural purposes."